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TOP SECRET

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EUROPE

1. ITALY: Attitude toward Schuman plan negotiations--US Ambassador Dunn in Rome reports that the Italian delegation to the Schuman plan negotiations has been instructed to maintain and defend a "truly European attitude," while at the same time endeavoring to "keep the door always open for the UK." The Italian delegation was reminded that the objective of the negotiations is to assure free access by Europe to coal, steel, and ore at non-discriminatory prices and was authorized to make sacrifices relating to the elimination of uneconomic plant capacity in Italy. Dunn adds that the Italian Government recognizes that a workable agreement may be obtained for the continent that would not attract the UK and that, in such an event, the fate of the Schuman plan would depend on the US attitude.

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